

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) A master gear for a spinning reel for transmitting rotation of a screw-in type handle to a rotor via a pinion gear, the master gear being rotatively supported on a reel unit of the spinning reel, the master gear comprising:

a shaft portion made of a first lightweight metal that is rotatively supported by the reel unit at a rotational support portion, said shaft portion having female threaded portions on its ends such that the handle is adapted to be screwed to one of the female threaded portions;

a gear portion that is arranged on an outer periphery of the shaft portion, the gear portion being adapted to mesh with the pinion gear; and

an annular member that is made of a second metal that is harder than the first lightweight metal from which the shaft portion is made, the annular member being mounted on the outer periphery of the shaft portion such that at least part of the annular member is disposed between the rotational support portion and an end of the shaft portion.

2. (Original) The master gear for a spinning reel according to claim 1, wherein the shaft portion is a tubular member to an inner periphery of which the handle is adapted to be rotatively mounted.

3. (Original) The master gear for a spinning reel according to claim 1, wherein the shaft portion is made of an aluminum alloy.

4. (Original) The master gear for a spinning reel according to claim 1, wherein the shaft portion is made of a magnesium alloy.
5. (Original) The master gear for a spinning reel according to claim 1, wherein the annular member is made of a stainless steel alloy.
6. (Original) The master gear for a spinning reel according to claim 1, wherein a liquid or gel-type filler made of an insulating material is filled between the shaft portion and the annular member.
7. (Original) The master gear for a spinning reel according to claim 1, wherein the gear portion is integrally formed with the shaft portion as a one-piece unitary unit.
8. (Original) The master gear for a spinning reel according to claim 1, wherein the gear portion is formed separately from the shaft portion.
9. (Original) The master gear for a spinning reel according to claim 1, wherein the annular member includes a tubular portion disposed on the outer periphery of the shaft portion extending toward the gear portion, and an inner flange portion that is bent inward from an axial end of the tubular portion.
10. (Original) The master gear for a spinning reel according to claim 9, wherein

the tubular portion is mounted on the outer periphery of the shaft portion such that at least part of the tubular portion is between the rotational support portion and the end of the shaft portion.

11. (Original) The master gear for a spinning reel according to claim 9, wherein the tubular portion is mounted on the outer periphery of the shaft portion extending through the rotational support portion.

12. (Original) The master gear for a spinning reel according to claim 11, wherein the annular member further includes an outer flange portion which is bent outward from a gear portion side axial end of the tubular portion.

13. (Currently Amended) A spinning reel comprising:  
a reel unit having a handle;  
a rotor on a front of the reel unit;  
a spool mounted on a front of the rotor so as to move forward and rearward; and  
a rotor drive mechanism accommodated within the reel unit and including  
a master gear rotatably supported on the reel unit and including  
a shaft portion made of a first lightweight metal that is rotatively  
supported by the reel unit at a rotational support portion,  
said shaft portion having female threaded portions on its  
ends such that the handle is [[be]] screwed to one of the  
female threaded portions,

a gear portion that is arranged on an outer periphery of the shaft  
portion, and

an annular member that is made of a second metal that is harder  
than the first lightweight metal from which the shaft  
portion is made, the annular member being mounted on  
the outer periphery of the shaft portion such that at least  
part of the annular member is disposed between the  
rotational support portion and an end of the shaft portion,  
and

a pinion gear rotatably supported to the reel unit and fixedly coupled to the  
rotor, the pinion gear meshing with the gear portion of the master  
gear.

14. (Original) The spinning reel according to claim 13, wherein  
the shaft portion is a tubular member to an inner periphery of which the handle is  
adapted to be rotatively mounted.

15. (Original) The spinning reel according to claim 13, wherein  
the shaft portion is made of an aluminum alloy.

16. (Original) The spinning reel according to claim 13, wherein  
the shaft portion is made of a magnesium alloy.

17. (Original) The spinning reel according to claim 13, wherein

the annular member is made of a stainless steel alloy.

18. (Original) The spinning reel according to claim 13, wherein  
a liquid or gel-type filler made of an insulating material is filled between the shaft  
portion and the annular member.

19. (Original) The spinning reel according to claim 13, wherein  
the gear portion is integrally formed with the shaft portion as a one-piece unitary unit.

20. (Original) The spinning reel according to claim 13, wherein  
the gear portion is formed separately from the shaft portion.

21. (Original) The spinning reel according to claim 13, wherein  
the annular member includes a tubular portion disposed on the outer periphery of the  
shaft portion extending toward the gear portion, and an inner flange portion that is bent  
inward from an axial end of the tubular portion.

22. (Original) The spinning reel according to claim 21, wherein  
the tubular portion is mounted on the outer periphery of the shaft portion such that at  
least part of the tubular portion is between the rotational support portion and the end of the  
shaft portion.

23. (Original) The spinning reel according to claim 21, wherein

the tubular portion is mounted on the outer periphery of the shaft portion extending through the rotational support portion.

24. (Original) The spinning reel according to claim 23, wherein the annular member further includes an outer flange portion which is bent outward from a gear portion side axial end of the tubular portion.